



EMC News

August 30, 1999

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Chair's Report

We have made progress identifying a membership structure that may be acceptable to everyone. The PIRE/EMC Subcommittee has drafted a resolution that restructures the EMC and encourages municipal representation by retaining municipal seats that can be filled by either a CAC member or an appointed individual, if a CAC does not exist. If a municipality fails to appoint a representative within a specified period of time, the seat may be filled by an at-large appointment. The resolution proposes a total of 21 seats on the Council. We will further discuss the proposed changes at the September meeting.

In addition to the proposed changes in membership structure, executive committee members have volunteered to attend a town board meeting of municipalities that are not currently represented on the Council, in an effort to encourage their participation. The goal of this visit is to inform them of the EMC's purpose and activities, and raise their awareness of this fall's recruitment.



At the September meeting we will also discuss other changes related to how we conduct business and our efforts to maintain good communication with the Board of Representatives and municipalities.

September's agenda also includes a full discussion of Cornell's recommendations on the radioactive disposal site, committee reports and the first series of municipal reports.

Submitted by Ed Cope

Coordinator's Report

As most of you are aware, all terms expire on December 31, 1999, as outlined in the Procedure for Appointments passed in January of this year. To fill these slots, I will initiate the membership drive this month by sending a letter to each municipality announcing the deadline for EMC appointments. I will forward a copy of this letter to all current municipal representatives. Applications will be accepted for at-large positions in October and the Executive Committee will interview potential at-large members in November. In December, the BOR will appoint all municipal and at-large EMC members to terms starting on January 1, 2000. If you have any questions about this process, please feel free to call me.

Executive Committee Report

As part of our efforts to improve communication with the Board of Representatives, the Executive Committee discussed preparing scripts for EMC members to take to their boards. Rather than preparing a script after each EMC

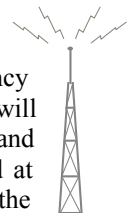
meeting, we discussed a one-page summary prepared quarterly to assist members with their quarterly reports to municipal boards. We also discussed spokespersons authorized to speak or correspond on behalf of the EMC. Committee members felt that the EMC Chair should be the primary spokesperson, and as a backup, a Vice Chair chosen by the Chair, would serve as the second spokesperson. Members also felt that certain committees, due to the nature of their work, should also be allowed to correspond on behalf of their committee and that the EMC Chair would designate this individual. We will further discuss these ideas at the September meeting.

Bruce Johnson, a member of the Executive Committee, has volunteered to chair the Nominating Committee, whose job it will be to identify a new EMC chair starting in January 2000. We will be looking for members to staff this committee and of course, a new chair!

Submitted by Mikel Shakarjian

County Towers Committee Report

The Tompkins County EMC, by virtue of the Tower Committee's work, is being nominated for an award given by the New York State Association of Environmental Management Councils (NYSAEMC). The award application nominates the EMC for its work creating the countywide list of tall structures/towers, and its role in helping to develop the request for proposals for a consultant to evaluate county's emergency communication system. If successful, the EMC will receive an award for this work in the EMC and Agency Collaboration category, to be presented at the NYSAEMC 1999 Conference on the Environment, September 24-26 in Rochester.



Please note the following schedule for municipal reports through the end of the year. After November, we will re-examine the process and set the schedule for 2000.

EMC Municipal Reports Schedule

September 1999	
Ed Cope	Town of Caroline
Bruce Johnson	Village of Freeville
Robert Roe	Town of Danby
October 1999	
Joyce Gerbasi	Town of Dryden
Walter Groman	Village of Dryden
Barbara Ebert	City of Ithaca
Lynn Leopold	Village of Lansing
November 1999	
Larry Sharpsteen	Town of Lansing
Donna Jean Darling	Town of Newfield
Jean Foley	Town of Ulysses

Announcements

Welcome to our newest at-large member, Roxana Bahar Hewertson from Trumansburg.



EnergyPlus Co-op Committee Seeks Help in Development

The organizing committee for the EnergyPlus Co-operative of the Southern Tier & Finger Lakes is seeking to expand its ranks in order to open for business when retail electricity competition gets into full swing. The co-operative, established in May 1998, is a community-based effort to ensure residential and small energy users benefit from utility restructuring. The co-op's goal is to help members lower their total energy bills by aggregating with other energy co-ops in the Northeast to obtain competitive fuel and electricity rates and providing comprehensive energy conservation products, services and education. In addition, the EnergyPlus Co-op will be a provider of "green" and locally produced energy. Taking advantage of "the good parts of bigness" the co-op will exist solely for the economic and environmental benefit of its members and the community. The EnergyPlus Co-op organizing committee would like to talk with anyone interested in the co-op, or those who would like to lend support to the project. Specifically, the co-op needs expertise or resources in the business, legal, computer, community-organizing or group facilitation, and energy management fields. For more information, EnergyPlus Co-op committee members can be reached at the 607-387-8340, or visit their website at www.co-opplus.com.

Submitted by Jon Dember

Tompkins County Natural Resources Inventory

The Planning Department is nearing completion of the Tompkins County Natural Resources Inventory. The inventory is a planning tool designed to encourage the use of natural resources information by local decisionmakers. The document provides examples of the data available through the department or other agencies on various natural resource topics, explains why the information is important, how to use the data and where to find more help. Once completed, the document will be distributed along with a series of maps, to each municipality and a brief training session provided. It would be great if EMC members could attend these training sessions to learn what resources are available, provide insight as to its applicability or testimony on how you have actually used this information in your EMC work. As we set dates for the training sessions, I will keep you informed.



Submitted by Mikel Shakarjian

Unique Natural Areas Committee Report

No Report Submitted

Education Committee Report

No Report Submitted

Env. Directory Update Committee Report

No Report Submitted

NESTS Committee Report

No Report Submitted

Environmental Review Committee Report

No Report Submitted

